bacteriological profile of softee ice-cream sold at retail outlets in Mangalore city of Karnataka was studied. A total 90 samples were tested, out of which 19, 4 and 2 showed contamination with E.coli, Staphylococcus aureus and Enterococcus faecalis respectively.

(c) The Food (Health) Authority of the States/U.Ts. who are responsible for implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in their State/U.T., have been requested to keep a strict vigil on quality of ice-cream. Any violation of the provision of the Act/Rules attracts legal action.

Violation of PNDT Act

*88. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of female foetuses aborted in the country in violation of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act in the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Sex determination techniques have been in use in India since 1975 primarily for the determination of genetic abnormalities. However, these techniques were widely misused to determine the sex of the foetus and subsequent abortions if the foetus was found to be female.

Studies indicate that sex determination tests are conducted and female foeticide carried out surreptitiously with the active connivance of the service providers and the persons seeking such services. Unlike other cases, both parties gain through such complicity, *i.e.* while the service seekers are able to get rid of the unwanted female foetus, the service providers benefit financially. The absence of witness to such unholy alliance or evidence thereto makes detection and compilation of data regarding such violations of the Act difficult. However, according to the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), 125 and 96 cases were registered during 2006 and 2007 respectively for foeticide.

With a view to overcoming such circumvention of the law, the implementing agencies, as also the NGOs and other organisations, are encouraged to employ decoy customers for trapping such unscrupulous service providers and book cases against them under the law.

Further, the Government has taken action on strengthening the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT Act) as well as creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms. Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve the Child Sex Ratio in the Country are:

- Constitution of the Central Supervisory Board under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, whose function, *inter alia*, is to advise the Central Government on policy matters relating to use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, sex selection techniques and against their misuse and to create public awareness against the practice of pre-conception sex selection and pre-natal determination of sex of foetus leading to female foeticide;

- Constitution of the National Inspection & Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for undertaking field visits periodically across the country.
- Constitution of the National Support & Monitoring Cell (NSMC) for effective implementation of the Act.
- The reports of NIMC and NSMC are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Governments with the request to take appropriate remedial action for plugging any shortcomings, including initiation of penal proceedings against the violators pointed out in the reports, since implementation of the Act rests with the State/UT Governments.
- Provisions have also been made for sensitising the Judiciary and the public prosecutors.
- Publication of Annual Reports, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs),
- On-Line Complaint registration facility on the Ministry's Website.
- Dedicated website for PC & PNDT Activities, *i.e.* 'pndt.gov.in', for online filing of 'Form F' by clinics and such retrieval of such data at District, State and National level.
- Organising sensitisation workshops/ seminars, launching of 'Save the Girl Child' campaign, seeking cooperation from the NGOs/religious leaders, etc..
- Further, under the National Rural Health Mission, Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) are being sensitised on the issue. Also, funds have been provided to all States/UTs under the Rural Child Health programme for implementation of the Act and related activities.
- The Government is open to further strengthen the PC & PNDT Act, 1994 and the Rules framed thereunder to make them more stringent.

Purchase of AK-47 Rifles

*89. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to buy three thousand AK-47 rifles;

(b) whether these would be given to Railway Protection Force or a special force would be formed; and

(c) the areas in which these are proposed to be deployed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY : (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In view of the heightened activities of militancy and insurgency in the North East region, Jammu & Kashmir and other left wing extremism affected areas, Ministry of Railways have decided to procure 3000 more AK-47 Rifles. These Rifles will be provided to Railway Protection Force and Railway Protection Special Force as and when received through Ministry of Home Affairs who have initiated the process of procurement through global tender. These AK-47 Rifles will be provided to RPF/RPSF deployed in vulnerable, sensitive and extremist prone areas over Indian Railway.